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SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans

Volume II | May-June, 1971 | Number 2

State Aging Meet Lauded

More Homemakers and Social Aides to Help Seniors

More man power is needed to help Senior Citizens and other clients of the Welfare Department and under the Careers Development Project 38 more people will be hired.

Careers Development is staffed by Paul C. Miller, development specialist; John J. Stuart, personnel specialist;

please turn to page six

Senior Pow Wow participants from the Saint Xavier Center discuss their problems with Governor Forrest H. Anderson, center, House Minority Leader Bill Christiansen, right, and George Boyer, VISTA worker, at the state White House Conference in Lewistown. The representatives of the Crow Indian Seniors are Catherine McCulloch, left, and Mrs. Elizabeth Cashen, Saint Xavier Center director.

White House Plan Will Go To Washington

Work is rapidly progressing on the development of a series of proposals to be presented to the White House Conference on Aging in Washington.

Barclay Craighead, Montana Commission on Aging chairman, said the agency's State White House Conference last month in Lewistown was the most important gathering of persons interested in the problems of the elderly ever held in this state.

More than 200 persons, including public officials, health and welfare experts, and a delegation of 70 "Senior Power" advocates, attended the two-day session. These delegates and a task force from four of the colleges now are working on the final draft of

please turn to page four

MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director
Recreation Department-City of Billings
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
13 North 29th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
318 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Harold Manicke, Director
Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center
424 Higgins Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Earle J. Tucker, Director
Helena Senior Centers
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Marie Bradley, Director
Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
405 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director
Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Main and First Streets
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dan Lopp, Deputy Director
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers
Alberton Montana
Superior Montana
St. Regis Montana
508 Toole
Missoula Montana 59801

Senior Citizens Center
V.F.W. Hall
Townsend, Montana 59644

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator
The Senior Center of Hamilton
O'Hara House
109 South Fourth Street
Hamilton Montana 59840

Jean Foster, Manager
Park County Senior Citizens Center
206 South Main
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director
Malta Senior Citizens Center
206 South Second Avenue East
Malta Montana 59538

Kenneth K. Baldwin, Director
Bozeman Senior Social Center Incorporated
37 East Main
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Mabel Huntington, Acting Director
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association
518 Center Avenue
Hardin Montana 59034

Allen Darnall, President
Sidney Senior Citizens Center
101 3 South East
Sidney, Montana 59270

Grace E. Henderson, Director
Libby Senior Citizens Association
Moose Hall—California Ave.
Libby, Mt. 59923

Director's Report

by Lyle Downing

When the Commission on Aging held what may be its final meeting at Lewistown, May 25, Theodore Carkulis, Department of Public Welfare Administrator, gave a brief outline of plans for reorganization of this agency under a new department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

This will be in compliance with the Executive Reorganization Act of 1971, which was signed into Law by Governor Forrest H. Anderson. The new department will include Welfare, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Aging program and Veterans Welfare Commission.

Mr. Carkulis told the commissioners that Governor Anderson has appointed a Task Force, which, with the assistance of the executive reorganization staff, will prepare a reorganization plan for the new department. In order to facilitate an expeditious review of the plan and to provide for the orderly and timely implementation of all principal departments, the Governor instructed the Task Force to submit a plan at the earliest date and not later than January 1, 1972.

The members of the Task Force are Mr. Carkulis, Jack C. Carver, Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Lyle Downing, Executive Director of the Commission on Aging and David Armstrong, Service-Officer Accountant for the Veterans Welfare Commission.

"The Task Force expects to start working on the new plan as soon as the current special session of the Legislature has adjourned," Mr. Carkulis said. "In his memorandum to the four department heads, Governor Anderson said that he cannot stress too strongly the importance of the reorganization task that lies ahead. For this reason the Governor said that it was imperative the Task Force start working as soon as possible."

please turn to page three

Webb Ainslie, President
Central Montana Senior Citizens Club
Corner of 4th and Blvd.
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Peter Bold, Director
Glendive 55 Plus Fun Club
120 West Power
Glendive, Montana 59330

Elizabeth Cashen, Director
St. Xavier Senior Citizens Center
St. Xavier Community Center
St. Xavier, Montana 59075

Florence Foundas, Director
Jolly Senior Citizens Club
Episcopalian Hall
Corner of Palmer and 11th St.
Miles City, Montana 59301

Clarence Hunt, President
Thirty-nine Plus Club—Gold Thimble
12 Main
Roundup, Montana 59072

Ted Halvorson, President
Senior Citizen Center of Teton Co.
202 Fourth Avenue N.E.
Choteau, Montana 59422

Herbert Carlson
Deer Lodge County Senior Citizens
210 East 5th
Anaconda, Montana 59711

Director's Report

Continued from page two

Then Governor Anderson told the Task Force that it is the policy of his administration to encourage increased management improvement concurrent with the development of the plan for the Division of Social and Rehabilitation Services. He urged the Task Force to consider the feasibility of establishing a continuing management improvement program and to seek ways of employing appropriate tools of modern management to promote efficiency and economy.

At the Lewistown meeting where plans were finalized for the report to the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. next November, the members of the Commission were told that they would be supplanted by an advisory committee to the Division on Aging. The division administrator who will assume the duties of the present executive director will appoint the Advisory Committee with the approval of Governor Anderson.

Mr. Carkulis explained that he was certain that the reorganization could be quickly achieved because, with the exception of the Veteran Welfare Commission, all of the agencies involved are now working closely together. He also said that he believed the reorganization could be completed before January 1.

Teachers' Retirement System Improved

According to Hugh McKinny, Executive Secretary of the Montana Teachers' Retirement System, teacher's retirement benefits have been increased:

(1) by 5 per cent for all teachers retired before July 1, 1969. Also provided is the minimum annual benefit for 35 years of service at $2,000 with proportionate amounts for teachers with lesser years.

(2) to provide for an annual benefit of ½ the average salary at age 60 for 35 years of service and proportionate amounts for lesser years. The average salary is based on the average of the three highest consecutive years.

Both of these changes become effective on July 1, 1971.

PERS Benefits Increased

John Sasek, secretary for the Public Employees Retirement System, explained the improvements that have been made by the past Legislature.

The formula for retirement payments has been increased 1/70 to 1/65. Translated this means that a person who retired from one of the various units of government covered by PERS in 1960 has been receiving $169. He will now receive $197.14. The factor for determining the increase varies from 1.6036 in the year 1945 to 1.0298 in 1970. This factor is one half of the cost of living increases.

Employer contributions (governmental units) will be increased from four per cent to 4.9 per cent by 1975.

This is the rear view of the Eagles Manor now being constructed in Lewistown. These windows will overlook the Spring Creek Garden Park.

The 73 unit condominium is being constructed for $1,030,000 by the Sletten Construction Co. It was designed by Kenny Knight and Associates.

The five storied housing for the elderly is one block from Main Street and right next to the shopping center which will be built this summer.

Rent and meals for the 52 single units begins at $170 a month. A dollar a floor as they go up is added to this minimum. The 21 doubles will rent for approximately $270.

WHITE HOUSE PLAN

Continued from page one

the Montana Plan which will be presented to the White House Conference next November.

Dr. James F. Hall, University of Montana Continuing Education Director, heads the list of experts formulating the plan. Other consultants are Dr. Virginia McGreevey, Montana Tech, Butte, Sister Providencia, College of Great Falls, Arnold Brown, University of Montana and Ray Sperry, Montana State University, Bozeman. John F. Haugan, the Commission on Aging's planner, also is working with the group.

Highlight of the Lewistown conference was an address by Governor Forrest H. Anderson, who complimented the delegates for their dedicated service to Montana's 70,000 elderly citizens. "Although we may be able to influence, to some degree, the formulation of a national policy for the aging," the governor said, "it is my opinion that the principal benefit from the many workshops and other meetings that have been held in the state will be reflected in what happens right here at home. I believe the prospects are very bright for an unprecedented expansion of our aging program."

House minority leader Bill Christiansen, Hardin, also spoke. Christiansen complimented the state commission for continuing to expand aging services in the state. He stressed the importance of the new state law which permits counties and cities the levying of up to one mill for senior citizens activities. Christiansen was the chief sponsor of this measure which was signed into law by the governor during the regular session of the legislature.

The Lewistown conference was financed under Title I of the Federal Education Act. The grant was obtained by Dr. Hall.

Here are some of the principal recommendations which the consultants now are considering for the Montana Plan:

INCOME—Provide additional jobs for aged; property tax relief for low income aged; increase social security benefits with the cost of living, erase inequity payments to women, and provide higher disability rates; expansion of Medicare and Medicaide services to the low income aged.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH — Coordinate health care needs, include preventative services in Medicare and Medicaide: develop screening programs for preventive illness; provide short-term mental health care for the aged.

HOUSING — Adequately fund housing needs with priority funding for elderly housing.

EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT—Develop and expand programs of Green Thumb, Green Lite, Foster Grandparents and others that provide value and additional income to low-income aged; change mandatory retirement age and job discriminations; provide a guaranteed income for aged.

please turn to page five

Gov. Forrest Anderson addresses 176 delegates and visitors to the White House Conference banquet in Lewistown.

Continued from page four

ROLES AND ACTIVITIES— Keep older people in the main stream of life as long as possible; set up a clearing house of programs and activities at local, state and national levels; utilize the talents of the aged and increase involvement within the community.

TRANSPORTATION — The federal government should subsidize transportation as lack of adequate transportation is the biggest hindrance for independent aged; provide a guaranteed liability insurance for drivers providing volunteer rides for aged.

SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING — Multi-purpose rooms be provided in all retirement homes that can be used for worship opportunities; simplification and assistance in writing and probation of wills, and investigation into overcharges for funeral services.

House Minority Leader Bill Christiansen discusses the mill levy for Senior Citizen recreation. On the left is Willard Fraser, Mayor of Billings. Governor Forrest Anderson and his wife and Barclay Craighead, Chairman of the Montana Commission on Aging at the Lewistown Conference.

At the Anaconda White House Community Conference spiritual well-being committee assistance is given by Rev. Edward Stupca (right).

Mrs. Gladys Barry inviting the community White House Conference in Anaconda to visit the P. J. Hagan Manor which she manages.

A luncheon snapshot of the Bozeman community White House Conference. Grace Bates (center) takes a bite as John Haugan (upper left) conference planner chats with other Senior Citizens.

Taxi Stamps In Glendive

Glendive—Western Cab Co. has entered into a one-year trial arrangement with Dawson County to transport Senior Citizens on one-way trips up to five miles for twenty-five cents.

William Ikard, Dawson County Welfare Director, explained that the transportation plan works like food stamps. Applications are filed by persons with limited incomes. To qualify for the taxi stamps, a single person's income must be less than $200 a month. Couples are limited to $300 a month income.

Ikard said that this is the first such plan in the state.

Ted Carkulis, State Welfare Director said this could help solve one of the major problems of the elderly-transportation.

MORE HOMEMAKERS

Continued from page one

Belva J. Hoptowit, social service aide and Helen P. McDonald, stenographer.

The project's objectives are to hire 25 Social Service Aides and 23 Homemakers throughout the state and assist these new employees in overcoming their barriers to employment. Secondly, the project will provide upgrade training for 20 additional public welfare employees. At the present time, there are ten Social Service Aides employed throughout the state.

Four are working on a joint project sponsored by the Department of Public Welfare and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. They are working on two teams, each team being composed of a Social Worker, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and two Social Service Aides. The items are located at Chinook and Glasgow. They are rehabilitating public welfare clients in seven high line counties.

Four Social Service Aides are working on the Lewis & Clark County Comprehealth Project. The project is designed to make medical care available to those who are self-supporting in other ways but who cannot afford to purchase medical care. The Social Service Aides are contacting potential users of the service and assisting those who are eligible in using the program.

One Social Service Aide is working with the Department of Public Welfare's Division of Visual Services. Her duties include contacting new referrals and taking applications. She also assists clients with housing problems and obtaining appliances such as Braille watches.

The tenth Social Service Aide is employed at the Glasgow Air Force Base. She is responsible for assisting clients with problems they encounter while in training at the base.

RETIRED ENVOY—Andrew V. Corry, left, former ambassador to Ceylon, was a visitor to the Commission on Aging offices. He is shown with Lyle Downing, Commission Executive Director. They were fellow students at Mount St. Charles (Carroll) College, Helena. Mr. Corry now makes his home in Alexandria, Virginia.

AGE DISCRIMINATION SUIT FILED AGAINST MONT. FIRM

Denver, Colo.—The U.S. Department of Labor has filed a suit in U.S. District Court alleging age discrimination in employment against Super Save Markets, Inc.

The retail grocery business operates in **Missoula, Helena** and **Great Falls.**

Harold Manicke, the new director of the Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center in Missoula, was born in Whitefish. He graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Economics in 1961. He has served eight years in the Navy. Upon his return to Montana he attended graduate school for business management. Mr. Manicke has a wife and daughter. He is the Executive Officer of the Butte Naval Reserve.

Age Discrimination Combated

Hartford, Connecticut—The National Council Against Age Discrimination has started a campaign to combat age discrimination and age barriers of every type and at all levels of private enterprise and government.

The NCAAD claims that any age barrier is a failure of society's commitments to humanity.

People, young, middle-age and old, are constantly being discriminated against in housing, renting, insurance, credit, adoptions, voting rights, jobs, retirement, welfare, Social Security and many other areas.

For further information write:

NCAAD Council Headquarters
65 Wethersfield Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06114

Vocational Rehabilitation Now Helping 168 Seniors

Currently there are 168 Senior Citizens receiving services from Vocational Rehabilitation in Montana, according to Director Jack Carver.

Training programs now have 28 seniors enrolled in various pursuits — teachers, machinists, writers, etc. Seven are receiving on-the-job training.

Actual medical or physical restoration involves 31 seniors being fitted with prosthetic appliances, wheel chairs — hospitalization, surgery, dental work, hearing aids, physical therapy, speech therapy, braces and personality adjustment training.

Vocational Rehabilitation is staffed by 24 counselors in the district offices and in the state institutions — Warms Springs State Hospital, Boulder River Training School and Hospital, Deer Lodge State Prison and the boys schools at Swan River and Pine Hills in Miles City.

A medical consultant assists with the rehabilitation programs and a supervisor and four examiners make disability determinations for Social Security purposes.

About 6,000 people in Montana are clients of the Voc-Rehab services and in this fiscal year just ending, 967 people were rehabilitated. $302,000 were spent on medical services including glasses and wheelchairs and other devices for physical restoration. $737,000 were spent on those receiving training.

Voc-Rehab handles all physical, emotional and mental disabilities on a four to one matching basis with the federal government. The administrative cost runs about three per cent.

Dr. James Hall (right) Master of Ceremonies at the Lewistown White House Conference gets the handshake from veteran political analyst and election forecaster, Joe Montgomery, 97.

Gallatin Housing Surveyed

The housing needs and identification of the Senior Citizens in Gallatin County have been published in a "Survey of the Elderly".

Acknowledged in the survey are:

First, Mr. Ken Baldwin and Mrs. Grace Bates of the Senior Social Center and the Gallatin County Comprehensive Health Planning Board respectively provided most of the guidance for their groups. Miss Anna Pearl Sherrick of the School of Nursing at Montana State University, was a constant help and guidance as was Mr. Don Nell of the United Agencies. In the rural parts of the County Mrs. Jennie Andriolo of Trident was a tireless worker, as was Mrs. Winona Verwolf of Manhattan. On the state level, the backing of Mr. Jerry Madden, of the State Department of Economic Planning was invaluable.

The survey should inspire other counties in the state to get busy.

Geriatric Blindness Is National Concern

Robert Morris and Garson Meyer, Co-Chairmen of the National Task Force on Geriatric Blindness, American Foundation for the Blind, Inc. recommend that all blind and other severely handicapped persons have the opportunity to live in and to maintain their own homes,

- That a system be set up so that the blind and severely handicapped can remain with their families or in their own homes,
- That networks of transportation and other services be developed in a form usable by the blind and severely handicapped,
- And that all service organizations take steps to reach out to the disabled by removing obstacles which discriminate against the blind and severely handicapped.

Apply for Lower Tax Valuation

During the month of July property owners with fixed incomes are advised to petition their county commissioners to lower their assessed valuation to combat the increasing property taxation.

An attorney can make a presentation before the county commissioners who resolve themselves into a Board of Equalization during the month of August. His petition should be based upon two considerations.

(1) Land value may have decreased because changes in the neighborhood such as the encroachment of commercial areas — loan embargoes on older areas by financial institutions — lack of enforcement of zoning regulations and lax maintenance of surrounding property and streets.

(2) The improvement — the house itself may have lost value because of out-moded layout and the changes in architectural styling. The mechanical features — plumbing, heating, and venting undoubtedly are not up to the efficiency of newer devices and should be assessed at a lower value than now placed on the county's books. While the corporations regularly depreciate the value of their installations for tax purposes, the individual rarely bothers to consider the amortization of his living space.

A letter mailed in July asking for an interview in August to discuss an adjustment in the assessed value of your property is well worth doing. Your county commissioners are very interested in equalizing the tax burden and are aware of the problem faced by senior citizens.

Miss Yeda Faria, student from Brazil, presented slides of her native country to **Townsend** Senior Citizens.

Social Security representative from Miles City, Ken Childers, spoke to **Wibaux** Senior Citizens on the changes in Social Security as affects senior citizens.

Francis McCarvel, Circuit Rider Attorney of Glendive, spoke to **Circle** Senior Citizens on wills, estates, and property tax reduction after age 65 at the Senior Citizens meeting May 20.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Dedicated to Montana's 70,000 older Americans

Montana Commission on Aging
715 Fee Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Forrest H. Anderson
Governor of Montana

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